

Regular Session, 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Army Staff Sergeant Troy S. Ezernack.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Staff Sergeant Troy S. Ezernack upon his death in ground combat operations in Afghanistan.

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ezernack was a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, and graduated from Woodlawn High School in 1984, after a childhood of travel with his father's military service which had taken him from Coushatta, Louisiana, to Shreveport, to Wascom, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ezernack later graduated as valedictorian of the class of 1988 at Texas Baptist College in Longview, Texas, intent on following a career as a pastor in response to a call from God and a feeling that through his ministry he could make a larger difference in people's lives; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ezernack served eight years as the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, until he left his ministry in 1999 to pursue a lifelong passion to follow in his father's footsteps and serve his country in its armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ezernack trained intensely for his new role in the United States Army, earning his coveted jump wings and rising up through the enlisted ranks until

1 he had achieved the leadership grade of non-commissioned officer and commanded a squad
2 of infantry paratroopers; and

3 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ezernack was deployed to Iraq with an airborne infantry
4 unit tasked with the mission of guarding government buildings during provincial elections
5 in the northern city of Kirkuk, the first such free elections to be held in nearly forty years due
6 to the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein; and

7 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ezernack served bravely and with great distinction in
8 Operation Iraqi Freedom, declaring "It's good they're electing officials. It's democracy come
9 true."; and

10 WHEREAS, while Staff Sergeant Ezernack returned home safely from his tour of
11 duty in Iraq, soon afterward he volunteered to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom in
12 Afghanistan as that country struggled against years of violent, religious oppression by
13 Taliban extremists; and

14 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ezernack was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry
15 Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, a highly elite and well respected unit with a tremendous
16 combat history and reputation, based in Vicenza, Italy, and now stationed in Afghanistan;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ezernack and his men were patrolling in Qalat city on
19 October 9, 2005, searching for enemy troops reported to be operating in the area when they
20 were engaged by heavily-armed hostile forces; and

21 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ezernack gallantly led his men in a room-to-room,
22 house-to-house battle with terrorist elements, and during the ferocious fight received serious
23 injuries from enemy grenades and was mortally wounded as a result; and

24 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Ezernack was laid to rest with other heros at Arlington
25 National Cemetery and honored for his heroism in action in services in which he received
26 the Bronze Star Medal for Valor in combat and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds in battle,
27 as well as other decorations including numerous service and overseas medals.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
29 does hereby extend its deepest condolences to the family of United States Army Staff
30 Sergeant Troy S. Ezernack from a grateful state and nation for their loss.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 family of Army Staff Sergeant Troy S. Ezernack.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Marionneaux

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Expresses condolences to the family of Army Staff Sergeant Troy S. Ezernack upon his death in ground combat in Operation Enduring Freedom.